



Philosophical Transactions

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An Account of some Books.

I. W. SENGVERDIUS P.D. de TARANTULA. *In quo, præter ejus descriptionem, effectus veneni Tarantulae, qui hactenus fuere occultis qualitatibus adscripti, rationibus naturalibus deducuntur & illustrantur.* Lugd. Batav. 1668. in 12.

THIS Author having described the structure of the body of this *Tarentin Spider*, and the chief parts thereof, together with its bigness, qualities, food, abode, manner, and season of stinging, and aptitude to live very many days without any visible food; passeth to discourse of the nature and effect of the poison, which being viscous and tenacious, exerts it self not presently, but lurks a good while in the body; and after the revolution of a year, being stirr'd and subtilized by the heat of the Sun, is rowl'd and put into motion, producing for the first two years only various diseases in the patient, as a dejection of the appetite, burning Feavers, Cachexy; after which do follow very strange and surprizing effects, in some singing and laughing; in others, weeping and crying; in others, sleeping; in others, continual watching; in some, vomiting; in some, dancing and sweating; in some, madness; in some, the fancy of being Kings; in others, that of being slaves: Just as Drunkenness renders some morose, silent and fearful; others bold and clamorous. *This* only he affirms to be common to all that are bitten by the *Tarantula's*, that they delight in Musick, and are thereby moved either to dance, or to gesticulate. He observes also, that some of these Patients are delighted with certain sorts of Colours, some with Yellow; some Green; some Red. But he noteth this as the most wonderful effect, that this poison so fixeth those imaginations, which a man chanceth to have when he is bitten, that he, that shall *then* think himself a King, will persist in that fancy ever after, till he be cured.

The cure of the poisonous effect, he with others assigneth to be Musick, and the dancing, consequent thereto; which the Patients do perform as if taught: Yet so, that not every one is affected with every song, but each with such an one, as is suitable

to his temper; that which is unsuitable, tormenting the party.

Some *Tarantula's* he affirms to have poison contrary to that of others, so that one man bitten by both such, cannot be made to dance; forasmuch as the one poison which induceth to dance, is made ineffectual by the contrariety of the other: It being also requisite, to use different Songs and Instruments, according to the different quality of the poyson, and the various Constitution of the Patient.

Further, he observes, that the *Tune*, which is suitable to the person bitten, is also suitable to the *Tarantula* it self, & *é contra*; as also, that not only men, but other Animals, as Cocks, Wasps, &c. bitten by the Spiders, do dance; and that the effects of the wound depend not on the life of the wounding Spider.

After this, our Author Philosophiseth thus. He esteems, that this poison invades chiefly the Arteries and Nerves, and the Spirits in the Nerves; as also the Brain and Fibres; and having cast the humours, raised in the whole Body, upon the Brain, disturbs the Imagination, according to the diversity both of Men's tempers, and of the *Tarantula's*.

The Feavers, *Cachexy*, Dancing, Sleep, Waking, various gestures, he giveth this account of; That since the *Tarantula* wounds by biting with a moist mouth in the hottest Season; thence by an opening made, the poison, consisting in a Salivous moisture, is out of the Spiders body conveyed into that of Man, whereby, upon its diffusion through the humane body, it affects the Muscles and Nerves principally, and in them, by the periodical heat, the Spirits stirring up and increasing the heat in the Heart, and by too vehement heat corrupting the bile in the vessels, and so causing hot Feavers and *Cachexy*: And it may be also, that by that Salivous and venomous substance in the Mouth, the Pores are obstructed, and the passages shut, whereby an outlet being denyed to the heat, it is too much augmented in the body, and so likewise putrifies the bile, and causeth the same distempers.

Sometime this poison is joyned to the Spirits, and thereby causeth about the beginning of the Nerves another motion, than Nature, if not disturbed, would produce: whence, by vellicating the *Muscles*, it induces the party to dance. Or it ascends in-

to the Brain, and there, by its viscosity, obstructs the Nerves in the place where they meet, and so hindring the Animal Spirits to pass into the Organs, causeth sleep; or, by its activity (so quick, that the Nerves cannot be obstructed by the Vapors, and a passage is constantly open'd for the Spirits to issue into the Organs) produceth continual Wakes.

If it be demanded, how *Musick* becomes a remedy, and inciteth the Patient to dance? 'Tis here answered, That Sound having a great influence upon the Actions of Man, and being a motion of the Air, the Air mov'd, causeth a like motion in the next Air, and so on, till the like be produced in the Spirits of the Body, to which the Air is impelled. Wherefore since the commotion of the Passions depends on the Spirits, and the viscous humour of the *Tarantula*, is a capable subject of sound, hence 'tis (saith this *Author*) that the Air being mov'd by a Musical Air, suitable to the Patient, the poison of this *Spider* and the Spirits of the Man are by the same agitation put into a commotion; whence follows a propension to dance: And the *Nerves* being by the same agitation vellicated, and the Spirits in the Nerves stirr'd more vehemently, and consequently the Muscles moved, the whole Body cannot but perform that dancing motion.

If it be asked, how the cure is made by *Dancing*, The answer here is, that by that vehement Motion the Bloud is heated, the Pores open'd, the Poison rarified and dispersed, and by Sweat ejected: But that these Patients are not cured by *Sudorificks*; the reason thereof is given from the difference between Sweat caused by Dancing, and that which is provoked by Medicines; forasmuch as Medicines are not capable so to stirr the little particles, wherein the poison lodges, as Dancing is.

But if it be insisted, why all that are thus bitten, are not curable by Dancing, some being known to have Danced 30 or 40. years, without being cured; Here is no other cause alledged, but that in some the poison is pertinacious and unrarifiable.

These, and the like Phaenomena (*vid.* why several *Patients* are cured, and several *Tarantulas* affected by several Tunes; why the *Tarantulas* in *Apulia* only produce these effects, &c.) are fully explicated in the Book it self.

II. *REGNERI De GRAAF, M.D. EPISTOLA, De nonnullis circa Partes Genitales Inventis Novis.* Lugduni Batav. in 16. A. 1668.

III. *JOHANNIS Van HORNE, M.D. Observationum suarum circa Partes Genitales in utroque sexu, PRODROMUS.* Lugd. Batav. in 15. A. 1668.

It seemes, that the two Authors in these two Papers have met with almost the very same Observations; which they account New, about the *Genitals* in both Sexes; and that, the former having appeared in Print before the latter, the latter thought himself obliged, the self same day that the Epistle of *De Graaf* came out of the Press (as himself intimateth) to declare in this his *Prodromus*, that, though he knowes not, whether the Observations of the *former* be *altogether* the same with his, yet, to avoid dispute hereafter, he thought fit, in this *Paper* of his, to represent the short of his own un-borrowed Observations, concerning that Subject, till he should be able to publish a *full* History of the structure of those parts.

Touching *De Graaf*, he 1. Rejects the opinion of those, that teach a Conjunction of the Seminal Arteries with the Veins by visible *Anastomoses*, and that reckon the *Testicles* among *Glands*. 2. He affirms, that he hath often unravell'd *totam substantiam testicularum in ingentem longitudinem*. 3. He asserts to have shew'd by a short way, *Vesicularum seminalium cum vasis deferentibus communionem, magnitudinem, figuram, earumque in Uterum exitum*. To which he saith to have added a very easie way of examining the Body of the *Prostate*. From the consideration of all which he concludes, *Unam esse solummodo materiam feminis, eamque in testibus generari, in vesiculis excipi, & inde in Uterum ejici, non per unum, ut vult Veslingius, sed duo foramina*. 4. He affirms to have an easier and more accurate way of dissecting the *Penis* than any other Anatomists he knows; and that he assigns to the Muscles thereof a farr other use, than hath been done hitherto. Of all which he intimateth, that he is ready to publish a Book, after he shall have received the thoughts of Dr. *Sylvius* upon the *Manuscript* thereof. He concludes, that he hath contriv'd a *New Instrument*, whereby every one may give himself a *Cyster* without any Denudation of the parts, or change of posture,

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Concerning *Van Horne*, he also refutes the above-mention'd *Anastomoses* between Arteries and Veins; then describes the *Spermatick Arteries* and *Veines*; the *Pyramidal-Figure*, they make, where they meet near the *Testes*, the direct and retrograde passage of the said Artery's through the *Testes*, and such a strange *Anastomosis* between the *Spermatick Veines*, that they represent a kind of *rete mirabile* most elegantly. He also will not admit the *Testes* to be Glandular, but affirms, (which is the same with the Doctrine of *De Graaf*) *totam Testium molem nil esse aliud, quam congeriem minutissimorum funiculorum, habentium seriem continuatam, atque concavorum, pro seminis materia devehenda*: adding, that if the greater Globe of the *Epididymis* be well examin'd, there will appear through its Membrane such *anfractus* and *funiculorum gyri*, as resemble those of the *Brain*. He holds *triplicem materiam seminis, unam, quæ venit à Testibus; alteram, quæ à Vesicalis; tertiam, quæ ex prostaticis in Urethram propellitur*. He deduceth from the wonderfulness of the Structure of the *Penis*, *Tensionem ejus, & impetuosam seminis per eundem ejaculationem*.

After this, he intimates briefly the Observables in *Partibus Genitalibus Mulierum*, and among other things remarks (what was lately also noted out of *Steno's Myologia*, Numb. 32. p. 628.) *Mulierum testes esse Ovario in Oviparis analogos*, they containing perfect Eggs, full of Liquor, and encompassed with a skin of their own, whereof he affirms to have yet some by him, &c.

E R R A T A.

Numb. 32. p. 617. l. 1. read Rotation for Relation. p. 614. l. 27. r. Herniarum instar p. 625. l. 25. r. Angles.

Numb. 33. p. 641. l. 32. r. converging, whereas some Copies have conveying. p. 642. l. 17. r. I L M K

In this Numb. p. 647. l. 5. r. the second, for first term. ib. l. 20. r. $A = B$, for $A < B$.

In the *S A V O Y*,

Printed by *T. N.* for *John Martyn*, Printer to the *Royal Society*, and are to be sold at the *Bell* a little without *Temple-Bar*, 1667.

